BENGALURU, TUESDAY, JANUARY 13, 2026 www.Bangaloremirror.com 12 Pages PRICE ₹3

Bangalore Mirror

TEMP Max 26 | Min 17 | Humidity 90% Mostly cloudy Sensex 83,878 | Nifty 25,790 | Gold 1,42,214 | Silver 2,70,293 | Dollar 90.14 | Euro 105.26 | GBP 121.41

GORY SIGHT

Pigeon carcasses left to rot in plastic nets at Indiranagar Metro Station installed to prevent birds from entering premises

PAGE 4

CUT COSTS

Scrapping ineligible BPL ration cards has helped state govt save up a neat Rs 110 crore each month

PAGE 6

16 official government holidays in 2026 falling on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, or Fridays, creating a string of long weekends that offer welcome breaks from the daily grind and chock-a-block traffic

WHEN TRAFFIC TAKES A HOLIDAY

Other factors that matter include width of road, vehicle density in each area

Sanjana CS
c-sanjana.s@timesofindia.com
TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

In 2026, Bengaluru may finally catch its breath, not because of new flyovers, signal-free corridors, or ambitious traffic reforms, but because the city's people will quietly step away from it.

The joint commissioner of police says that during holidays, only around 20% of people travel out of the city, but it reduces congestion by nearly 60%.

According to the calendar, which is unusually generous this year, Karnataka will see 16 official government holidays in 2026 falling on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, or Fridays, creating a string of long weekends that offer welcome breaks from the daily grind.

For a city long defined by honking horns, endless red lights and bumper-to-bumper commutes, these extended breaks are expected to

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8 »

"If you observe carefully, traffic patterns at exit roads and major junctions show a clear change during long weekends. For instance, with Sankranthi falling on the 15th, people who take leave on the 16th will get a four-day holiday. During such periods, traffic at inner-city junctions reduces by nearly 60–70% —Karthik Reddy, Joint Commissioner of Police (Traffic)

Book of disquiet

Traffic police register over 14,000 violations linked to noise pollution of which 10,000 for illegal use of shrill horns

Garima Prasher
garima.prasher@timesofindia.com
TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

The Bengaluru Traffic Police registered more than 14,000 violations across the city linked to noise pollution in 2025.

Out of these, a little over 4,000 cases registered by BTP were for the use of defective silencers, as many as 10,000 violations were booked for the illegal use of shrill horns, and 51 cases were booked against motorists honking at prohibited places.

The majority of these cases have been booked in the central, southern, and western parts of Bengaluru. The maximum number of violations (611) under the three offences was booked at Jnanabharathi police station, followed by 521 violations at Peenya traffic police station and 491 at Pulkeshwarinagar station.

The least number of violations (42) of defective silencers, use of shrill horns, and horns at prohibited places were reported from Cubbon Park area.

However, regular walkers and residents around the Cubbon Park area say that fewer than two violations a month go on to show that the strict implementation of vehicular noise pollution rules on the ground is lacking.

"There is a lot of honking going on inside and around the Park, despite it

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8 »

THINGS TO DO

01 Crafted experience

Down The Rabbit Hole returns to The Drawing Room by Smoke House Deli with an edition shaped around quiet curiosity and thoughtful craft. Kevin Kos, ranked 42nd among the World's Most Influential Figures in Hospitality, will be taking a masterclass.
Where: The Drawing Room by Smoke House Deli, Indiranagar;
When: January 15, 3.30 pm

02 Grand spectacle

Piyush Mishra will be performing live as part of the Aarambh 2.0 India Tour, redefining live performance by blending music, poetry, and theatre into an unforgettable experience.
Where: Phoenix Marketcity, Whitefield;
When: January 17, 7 pm

03 Soulful music

Known for his soulful vocals and heartfelt compositions, Gajendra Verma will be performing live, bringing a night of music, emotions, and memories.
Where: Orion Mall, Rajajinagar;
When: February 7, 6 pm

04 Realm of stories

Ranga Shankara returns with its signature intimate storytelling programme, Little Cloud, packed with an enchanting experience of creativity, laughter and imagination. The sessions are held for children aged 4 to 6 every Saturday and Sunday.
Where: Ranga Shankara, JP Nagar;
When: January 3 to March 15, 10 am

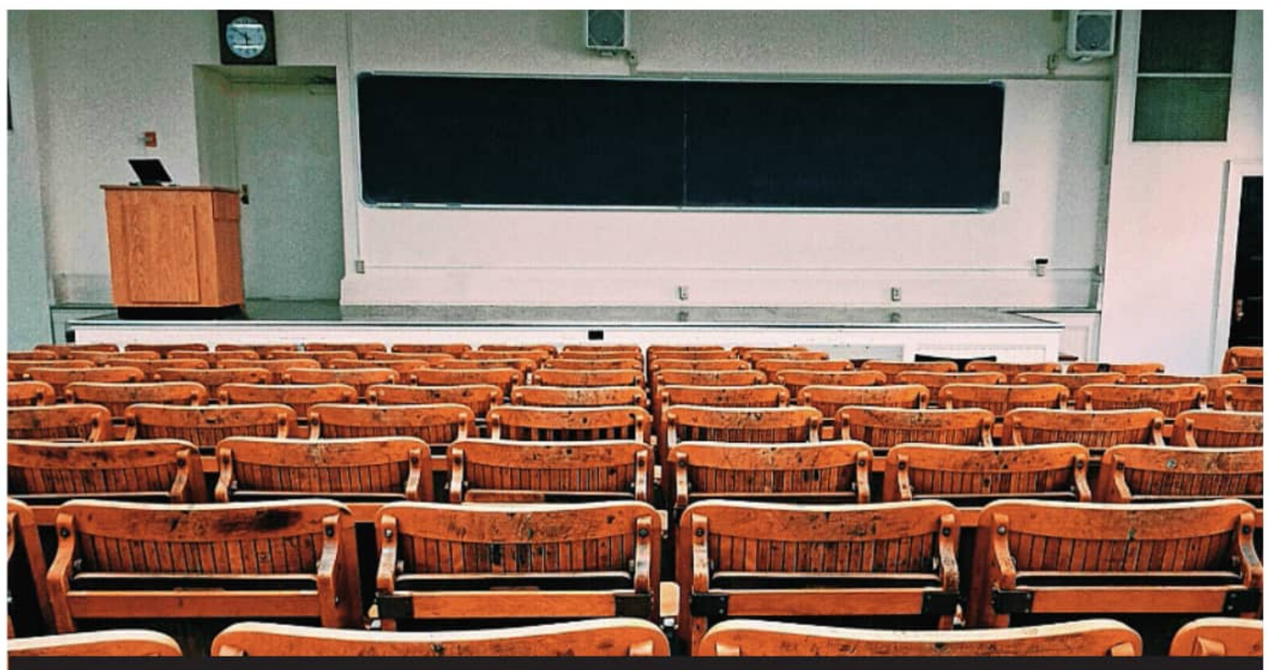
05 Unlimited fun

Pet Fed is back with two days of pure joy for pets and pet lovers alike, bringing paw-sitivity, fun, and unforgettable experiences.
Where: KTPO, Whitefield;
When: January 17, 11 am

Assistant professors' hiring process under scrutiny

Agriculture universities adopting modified scorecard that emphasises written tests and discretionary marks in recruitment process sparks concerns over deviation from UGC norms

Y Maheswara Reddy
c-y.reddy@timesofindia.com
TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR



It is said that new scorecard creates scope for bias in recruitment of assistant professors

Principal Secretary of Department of Agriculture urges detailed report on recruitment process of 75 assistant professors for Agricultural University of Raichur

Universities across the country are mandated to follow University Grants Commission (UGC) regulations in the recruitment of assistant professors. However, a government order issued on March 26, 2021, by the Under Secretary of the Department of Agriculture directed all agricultural and horticultural universities in the state to adopt a common scorecard instead, a move widely seen as a violation of UGC norms.

The issues trace back to a state government letter which advised all agricultural and horticultural universities to revise the pay scale of teachers, librarians, and other equivalent cadres. Instead, the University of Agricultural Sciences, Bengaluru, introduced a new scorecard. This scorecard allegedly diverges from UGC norms, which allocate 80 marks for academic performance, 10 marks for research publications, and 10 marks for teaching experience. In contrast, the new scorecard places emphasis on a written test with 40 marks and an interview with 10 marks, leaving 50 marks to the discretion of universities. Critics argue that this deviation creates scope for misuse, including corruption, nepotism, and favouritism.

The state government is also said to have issued an order approving the proposal for a new scorecard. Typically, the government is expected to advise the University of Agricultural Sciences, Bengaluru, to adhere to UGC norms. The then governor subsequently endorsed the inclusion of the modified scorecard into the University's statutes.

SC judgement

The Supreme Court, in a judgment dated July 14, 2025, had directed the State of Punjab to initiate recruitment process as per the UGC regulations of 2018. The SC gave the judgment while hearing a special leave petition (SLP) filed by Mandeep Singh and others.

"Thus considering the entire facts of the case, we allow these appeals and set aside the order (dated October 23, 2024) passed by the Division Bench of Punjab and Haryana High Court and quash the entire recruitment and direct the State to initiate the recruitment process as per 2018 UGC regulations which are now in force in the state of Punjab," the SC judgment read.

Recruitment row

University of Agricultural Sciences, Bengaluru, issued a notification on December 22, 2025, announcing a written test for assistant professor posts in connection with the recruitment notifications released by the Agricultural University of Raichur.

However, Raichur City MLA Dr Shivaraj Patil wrote to the Principal Secretary of the Department of Agriculture, urging a halt to the recruitment of assistant professors and other posts, citing multiple allegations regarding the conduct of written tests. "I have received many complaints from the public and I also noticed media reports alleging violation of recruitment norms for the post of assistant professors. I also came to know that there is no consent from the Finance Department to recruit 75 assistant professors for Agricultural University of Raichur," the MLA's letter read.

Ambanna Arolikar, a social activist, while addressing a press conference in Raichur, threatened to lock the gates of Agricultural University of Raichur, if the recruitment process of the 75 assistant professors would not be cancelled. "I want the authorities to follow the UGC norms," he said.

On January 7, 2026, the Principal Secretary of the Department of Agriculture issued a letter to the Vice Chancellor of Agricultural University of Raichur requesting a detailed report on the recruitment process for 75 assistant professors.

It is yet to be seen if the government will reconsider its nod to the modified scorecard, as experienced aspirants await clarity.

Celebration of harvest, culture, and traditions

Silicon Suggi 2026, a festival celebrating harvest, culture and traditions, was inaugurated at Silicon City College (Autonomous), Bengaluru. The event was attended by Justice P Krishna Bhat, Dr HM Chandrashekar, Chairman of Silicon City College, HM Mukunda, Director, and Sri Venkataramana Nayak, Retd KAS, along with other guests. The festival focussed on honouring roots, culture and togetherness, and highlighted the agricultural and cultural practices of society.

Inaugurating the event, Justice P Krishna Bhat spoke about the need to stay connected to one's roots while gaining skills for a changing world. He shared that he comes from an agricultural family and continues to maintain cattle in his native place.

-BMB

Flower show blossoms with eco-conscious vision

The 219th Republic Day Lalbagh Flower Show will open with a firm message to visitors from January 14 to 26: Bring Your Own Bag and Bring Your Own Bottle (BYOB). Large signboards at the gates clearly inform the public that mineral water bottles and plastic carry bags are not permitted inside the Lalbagh premises. Visitors are encouraged to carry reusable bags and personal water bottles, with water refill stations provided across the garden.

This year's flower show is themed 'Tejaswi Vismaya', a tribute to the life and literary legacy of renowned Kannada writer K P Poornachandra Tejaswi. The theme has been brought alive through large-scale floral installations, reflecting Tejaswi's deep connection with nature.

KAUSHIK JN

Speaking on the sustainability measures, Raj from The Indian Ploggers Army said, "We appreciate the Horticulture Department for its dedicated efforts toward a greener Lalbagh. The installation of additional water refill stations is a fantastic step. We urge visitors to bring their own reusable bags and bottles and help keep the flower show clean."

Odette Katrak from Beautiful Bharat said that communication was crucial. "It is encouraging to approach Lalbagh and see large signs informing the public that mineral water bottles are not permitted inside. This shows Lalbagh is now being treated as an eco-sensitive zone," she said.

The flower show this year has a strong emphasis on sustainability. M Jagadeesh, Joint Director of the Horticulture Department, said Lalbagh has been declared plastic-free, with a ban on plastic bottles, carry bags, thermocol items, and disposable cutlery. Visitors are encouraged to bring their own reusable bottles, with 10 permanent drinking water units and 12 additional refill stations installed.

-Iffath Fathima

Teachers among exam leak accused

The North Division Cyber Crime Police have arrested eight people, including school headmasters, teachers and two minor students, in connection with the alleged leak of SSLC pre-preparatory examination question papers.

The arrested individuals have been identified as VD Girish, headmaster of a school in Tumakuru; Mohammed Sirajuddin, Shahida Begum, Fahimda, Amjad Khan and Farzana Begum; along with two students. Police said all the accused have been taken into custody and questioned.

The case came to light after the Hindi question paper surfaced on social media. Subsequently, the Social Science and English question papers were also found to have been leaked. Based on a complaint lodged by P Manjunath, a registered officer of the State School Examination and Evaluation Board, the North CEN Police registered an FIR on January 7 and launched an investigation.

According to the police, teachers from schools in Tumakuru, Ramanagara and Kalaburagi districts allegedly shared question papers with students to ensure they passed the examinations.

The students, in turn, reportedly sold the papers to classmates through Telegram and other social media platforms for amounts ranging from ₹300 to ₹500. Police officials said the exact source of the leak is yet to be established, although the papers are believed to have been circulated from Bengaluru, Mysuru, Kalaburagi and Shivamogga.

In a similar case, an FIR was registered at a police station on January 9 against a YouTube channel for uploading a question paper prepared by the Board of Pre-University Education. In this regard, Joint Director of the Department of Pre-University Education N Raju filed a complaint.

The Hindi question paper, prepared in the format prescribed by the department, was uploaded on YouTube by a channel named Niranjan Shetty@Niranjan Shetty9581 in an attempt to mislead students. Consequently, the department sought legal action against those responsible. **BMB**

HIGH COURT

Land allotment: Notice to state govt

The Karnataka High Court on Monday issued notices to the State Government and the Registrar General regarding a public interest petition seeking the allocation of at least 30 acres of land in the central business district for the construction of a new High Court complex.

A Division Bench comprising Chief Justice Vibhu Bakhru and Justice CM Poonacha heard the petition filed by Sharan Desai, who appeared in person. The petitioner informed the Bench that Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar had recently indicated the Government's intention to allocate land in central Bengaluru for a new High Court campus.

The petitioner referred to a public statement made by Shivakumar on October 26, 2025 during a citizen outreach programme titled "Walk With Bengaluru" held at Cubbon Park. On that occasion, the Deputy Chief Minister stated that the State was examining the possibility of relocating the High Court to a larger site due to severe space constraints at the existing premises.

The plea also relies on an earlier order passed by the High Court in Writ Petition No. 42354 of 2014. In that case, by an order dated October 17, the court permitted the Registrar General to construct an annexe building within the Cubbon Park area after approving a revised plan that avoided the felling of 17 trees and the relocation of an existing road.

In the earlier proceedings, the court had allowed a petition filed by the Registrar General seeking permission to construct the annexe at the site of the old Election Commission office located within Cubbon Park.

In addition to land allocation, the present petition seeks directions to the authorities to ensure that adequate funds are sanctioned by the concerned departments for the construction and completion of the proposed new High Court campus. **BMB**

Human trafficker bail plea rejected

The Karnataka High Court has declined to grant bail to a man accused by the National Investigation Agency (NIA) in a human trafficking case, after observing that he had travelled to Bangladesh on multiple occasions using a passport allegedly obtained on the basis of forged identity documents.

A Division Bench comprising Justice HP Sandesh and Justice Venkatesh Naik T dismissed the appeal filed by Amol Chandra Das, also known as Amol Das and Sujib. He has been charged under Sections 370(3) and 120B of the Indian Penal Code, along with provisions of the Foreigners Act, the Passport (Entry into India) Act, 1920, and the Passport (Entry into India) Rules, 1950.

Opposing the bail plea, Special Public Prosecutor P. Prasanna Kumar, appearing for the NIA, submitted that the Aadhaar card produced by the accused was fabricated.

He pointed out that two Aadhaar cards bearing the appellant's name were issued on the same date— December 18, 2017—but reflected different addresses, one in Bengaluru and the other in Assam. The prosecution also alleged that the photograph on the Aadhaar card had been manually inserted.

"It is impossible for Aadhaar cards to be issued in two different States on the same day," the prosecutor argued.

The NIA further questioned the authenticity of the birth certificate submitted by the accused, stating that verification revealed the signature on the document did not belong to any registered medical practitioner, indicating that it was forged.

The agency also highlighted that the accused had travelled to Bangladesh five times, contending that this demonstrated his Bangladeshi nationality and links to the country, which, according to the NIA, corroborated his involvement in human trafficking activities.

The prosecution maintained that granting bail would pose a serious risk of the accused absconding, given his alleged foreign nationality and travel history.

After examining the records, the court noted that the materials on record clearly suggested the creation of forged Aadhaar documents in different States on the same day. The Bench observed that these documents were allegedly used to obtain a passport, which enabled the accused to make repeated trips to Bangladesh.

The court concluded that the prosecution's apprehension regarding the likelihood of the accused fleeing justice was well founded. Finding no sufficient grounds to grant bail, the Bench rejected the appeal. **BMB**

Pesticides and Industrial Waste Render India's Water Unsafe to Drink
Lead Pollution Alarming: 69 Rivers in India Contaminated
MERCURY AT DANGEROUS LEVELS IN INDIA'S WATER BODIES
PLASTIC POLLUTION ON THE RISE
HIGH ARSENIC IN INDIA'S GROUNDWATER: SAMPLES BREACH SAFE LIMITS; EXPERTS WARN OF SEVERE HEALTH RISK
DID YOU KNOW THAT
WATER SOURCES TODAY CONTAIN PESTICIDES, MERCURY, LEAD, AND ARSENIC?

Consuming water containing these deadly contaminants can cause serious illnesses, even cancer!

Tests done at **IIT Madras** have shown that **ordinary filters fail quickly** and do not remove these contaminants. As a result, you may end up drinking water that looks clean and tastes normal but is actually unsafe, putting you and your family at high risk.

Introducing the new Aquaguard Nanopore Long-Life Filters that are proven to remove contaminants such as bacteria, viruses, pesticides, mercury, lead, arsenic, and microplastics till the last drop, keeping you always protected. Always **scan the QR code** on the filter to verify that it is genuine.

NEW

Aquaguard NANOPORE

LONG-LIFE FILTERS

*As per the Annual Ground Water Quality Report 2024, GoI.

EVERY TIME YOU CHANGE THE FILTERS OF YOUR WATER PURIFIER, INSIST ON GENUINE AQUAGUARD NANOPORE LONG-LIFE FILTERS.

Book a service at **eurekaforbes.com** | Call **703 988 3333**
Download the Eureka Forbes App today.

Women of wisdom lead sustainable waste awareness initiative

JP Nagar community transforms abandoned space into interactive learning hub, teaching sustainable waste practices, composting, upcycling, and eco-friendly habits for residents

Iffath Fathima
iffath.fathima
@timesofindia.com

TWEETS @BangaloreMirror

Project supported by MLA, GBA, Socratus, and Altlab collaboration

Dry Waste Collection Centre was established, but the small, dilapidated building faced issues during rains, as waste piled up, complaints rose, and it was shifted during COVID-19

What was once an abandoned BBMP building and a major garbage black spot in JP Nagar has now been transformed into a vibrant education and community space focused on sustainable waste practices. The newly opened Namma Hasiru Gnana Kalika Kendra (Our Green Knowledge Learning Centre), along with a rest facility for pourakarmikas called Vishranthi Kendra, stands as an example of how consistent citizen efforts can reclaim neglected public spaces.

The transformation was led by Women of Wisdom, a group of women residents from JP Nagar, who spent years following up with authorities to address the worsening condition of the site. Located along a stretch frequently used by residents walking to the Senior Citizens' Park and nearby localities, the area had become unsafe, unhygienic, and unpleasant to pass through.

Around 2016, the space originally functioned as a small play area. However, due to poor upkeep and the presence of an underutilised stormwater drain that caused a foul smell, the play equipment was removed, and the area was left unused. Over time, part of the space became a shelter for pourakarmikas, while another portion turned into an open dumping ground. For several years, the site remained a major black spot.

In 2019, residents tied up with BBMP and Ugly Indians to clean the area, paint rangoli, and improve its look. But garbage dumping soon resumed. A security guard was appointed to prevent littering, and interactions with residents revealed that people working night shifts had no proper collection of facilities.

A Dry Waste Collection Centre (DWCC) was later set up, but the small and dilapidated building posed challenges, especially during rains. Waste would get wet and pile up, leading to complaints. During the COVID-19 period, the DWCC was eventually shifted elsewhere.

By 2024, space had again fallen into neglect, becoming a urine spot and being used for illegal activities. Residents, especially senior citizens, felt unsafe walking through the stretch, even during the day.

Determined to find a long-term solution, Women of Wisdom came up with a detailed plan. One part of the building was redesigned as Vishranthi Kendra, providing a proper shelter, changing room, and toilet for pourakarmikas. The other part became Namma Hasiru Gnana Kalika Kendra, a "Waste to Wisdom" learning centre where school children, residents, and institutions can learn about sustainable practices.

The centre will host sessions on waste segregation, responsible disposal, use of cloth bags, and reducing single-use plastics. It will also include a cutlery bank, best-out-of-waste workshops, upcycling activities, and guidance on creating zero-waste zones. Information boards detailing Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) officials will encourage dialogue and accountability.

Shwetha Urs from Women of Wisdom said, "With this centre, our aim is to move towards a Zero Waste Ward and be the voice of the community. This is not just a building, but a shared space for learning, exchanging ideas, and changing habits. Every visitor can pledge at least one positive change towards sustainable living."

The project was made possible with support from MLA Ramamurthy, the South Commissioner (BSWML), GBA, and organisations such as Socratus and Altlab, who joined hands to strengthen the Waste to Wisdom concept.

Pigeon carcasses linger at Indiranagar metro station

Y Maheswara Reddy
c-y.reddy@timesofindia.com

TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Namma Metro stations have long been known for their cleanliness and maintenance. However, the Bengaluru Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL) has drawn criticism for failing to remove pigeon carcasses trapped on plastic nets installed at the Indiranagar Metro Station to prevent birds from entering the premises.

Recently, the Great Bengaluru Authority (GBA) banned public feeding of pigeons at public places, citing increased risks of lung-related diseases. Indiranagar Metro Station is used by thousands of commuters every day. While many passengers may not have noticed the pigeon carcasses lying on the nets beneath the station roof, several commuters have expressed concern over their presence.

"The sight of dead pigeons is disturbing and shocking. I do not understand what has prevented workers engaged by BMRCL for cleaning from removing the carcasses. Delays in clearing them will bring a bad name to BMRCL, which is otherwise known for keeping metro stations clean and neat," said Naveen N, a passenger.

The issue has also drawn the attention of elected representatives. In November, Rajajinagar MLA S Suresh Kumar had urged the GBA to impose a ban on feeding pigeons in public parks, pointing to growing health and environmental concerns. Referring to the situation at Indiranagar station, Kumar said it was BMRCL's responsibility to ensure that carcasses are removed promptly to prevent health problems for commuters. He added that he would raise the matter with BMRCL officials and seek immediate action.

Metro cleanliness image questioned after pigeon carcasses found

"The sight of dead pigeons is quite disturbing and shocking, I do not know what has prevented the workers engaged by the BMRCL from removing the pigeon carcasses

–Naveen N, a passenger at Indiranagar Metro Station

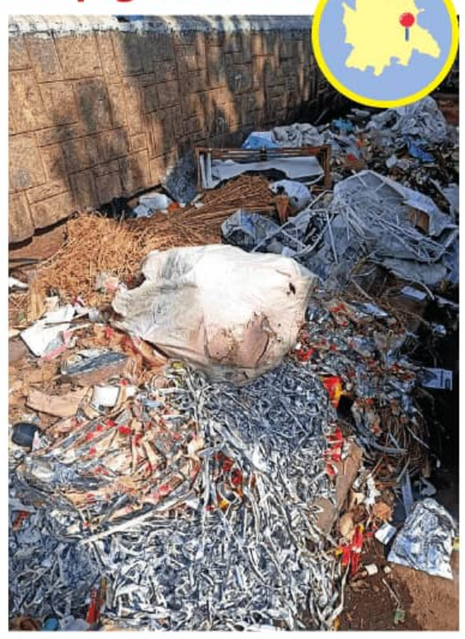
Echoing similar concerns, Dr D Paramesha Naik, President of the Environmental Society of India, said that pigeon carcasses left unattended could become a serious health hazard for passengers using the station daily. He demanded that the authorities concerned take swift steps to clear the carcasses and maintain hygiene.

Meanwhile, a BMRCL Public Relations Officer said the issue would be looked into at the earliest possible time.

whatsapp MIRROR
9591233247

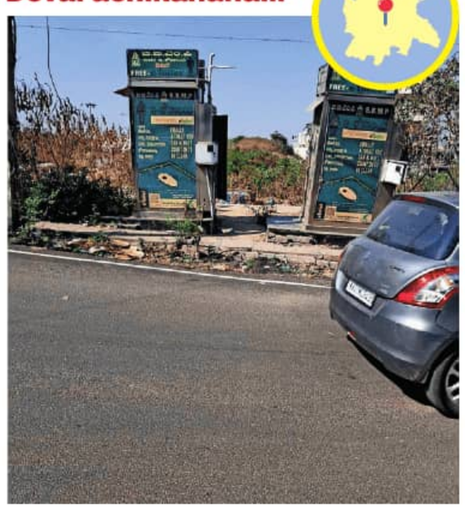
Problems in your area?
Send us a picture along with specific details. And please, no phone calls or spamming

Garbage neglect
Kempegowda Road



Uncollected garbage has accumulated for weeks on Second Cross Road, Kempegowda Road, causing daily inconvenience to commuters amid alleged negligence by health department officials.

Hygiene failure
Devarachikanahalli



Non-functional BBMP e-toilets dumped by the roadside near Stone Park and Swachh Bharat Playground in Devarachikanahalli, near Begur Police Station, have become an eyesore, undermining the Swachh Bengaluru campaign.

Water shortage
Austin Town

The park in Austin Town suffers from no water supply and zero maintenance, leaving the space neglected, unusable, and deteriorating for visitors and residents.

Gift forgotten on bus returned

A gift box forgotten on a BMTC bus by a Hassan-based passenger was traced and returned within two days, highlighting the efficiency of the transport staff. Dr H R Sanyami, who was carrying a home-cleaning robot from Delhi as a gift, realised after leaving Bengaluru that he had misplaced the box while travelling on a Vayu Vajra bus. After failing to receive a response from airport authorities, he informed a BMTC conductor. The information was passed on, and the parcel was quickly located at the Katriguppe depot. BMTC officials said forgotten items are secured at depots and returned to owners. —BMB

Swift police response saves two lives

Swift police response led to two timely rescues in Bengaluru on Thursday evening, averting potential tragedies in separate incidents.

In the first case, an ailing man in his early fifties was rescued within 11 minutes near Sir MV Metro Station in Halasuru. Police said that at around 8.27 pm, a concerned member of the public alerted Namma 112 after noticing a man in severe distress, with a medical drip still attached to his hand. The information was immediately relayed to Hoysala Unit-27, which rushed to the spot. The man was found disoriented, after which police traced his identity, contacted his family members, and safely handed him over to them.

In another incident, a youth was rescued in Rajajinagar after his parents called Namma 112 around 6.11 pm, reporting that their son had locked himself inside a room following a quarrel and was unresponsive. The alert was passed to Hoysala Unit-99. ASI Rangaswamy and PC Tammanneppa reached the location within four minutes, forced open the locked room, and found the youth inside. He was immediately shifted to a nearby hospital for treatment. Police said the prompt intervention helped save his life. —BMB

Forged IDs lead to arrests

Hebbagodi police officials have arrested two Bangladeshi nationals for illegally residing in Bengaluru for the past two years, using forged identity documents, officials confirmed yesterday.

The arrested individuals have been identified as Jahidul Islam (35) and Firdous (32). During the investigation, police discovered that they had illegally entered India and obtained forged passports, Aadhaar cards, and other identification papers to conceal their true nationality.

The duo had been living in Podu village near Hulimangala in Electronic City, working at a scrap yard and collecting scrap and plastic bottles during the night. During interrogation, they initially claimed to be residents of Kolkata, West Bengal. However, based on credible inputs, Hebbagodi police conducted a raid, revealing their real identities and resulting in their arrest.

Authorities suspect several more illegal Bangladeshi migrants may be residing in and around Electronic City. The probe also revealed that some local landlords had rented out premises to the immigrants. These landlords have been summoned for questioning, and action will be taken if irregularities are found. Further investigation into the matter is ongoing. —BMB

Road widening threatens green cover inside lake

Environmentalists question necessity of road widening at Kondareddy Lake, highlighting ecological damage, groundwater depletion, and threats to green cover

Bangalore Mirror Bureau
mybangaloremirror@timesofindia.com
TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Acacia trees impact water storage but support local biodiversity

As many as 139 full-grown trees inside a lake area in Anekal have been proposed to be felled for a road-widening project, triggering concern among environmentalists and local residents across the city.

In an application submitted to the Karnataka Forest Department by the Panchayath Development Officer of Hennagara Grama Panchayath in Anekal, trees standing inside the Kondareddy Lake area have been proposed for removal as part of a lake improvement project that includes road widening works.

Following the submission, the forest department has invited suggestions and objections from citizens, as mandated under the Karnataka Tree Preservation Act, before taking any final decision on the proposal affecting the lake ecosystem.

The Deputy Zonal Forest Officer has already conducted a site inspection and submitted a detailed report to the department. The inspection was carried out in December last year and, according to the report, a total of 1,540 acacia trees are standing on government land within the Kondareddy Lake yard.

While the lake was found to be polluted, the report noted that a majority of the trees were dry and infested with termites. "Since it is necessary to remove 139 green trees and 1,401 dry trees, a total of 1,540 acacia trees on government land can be removed for the lake development work," the Deputy Zonal Forest Officer stated.

However, city-based environmentalists have raised objections, pointing out that even if the trees are acacia, a species often criticised for high water consumption, the removal of green cover for a road-widening project within a lake area must be questioned seriously.

"The project is road widening, which has become an all-pervasive activity in the country. In urban areas, road widening is somewhat understandable, but why road widening at a lake," questioned Dattatreya Devare, trustee of the Bangalore Environment Trust.

Acacia trees are believed to reduce groundwater levels and surface water storage due to their deep root systems, potentially leading to drinking water shortages in surrounding areas.

Activists, however, caution against simplifying the issue. "The solution to improving groundwater levels lies in creating more recharge pits, increasing vegetation cover, and reducing paved or concretised areas. While there is no conclusive scientific evidence that acacia alone causes groundwater depletion, every tree species supports biodiversity and helps regulate the microclimate and check."

The inspection was carried out in December last year and, according to the report, a total of 1,540 acacia trees are standing on government land within the Kondareddy Lake yard

Conduct B'luru civic body polls by June 30: SC

The Supreme Court on Monday asked the Karnataka government and the state election body to hold the long-pending polls for Bengaluru local body by June 30.

The tenure of the earlier elected body for Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) expired on September 10, 2020, and since then a government-appointed administrator has been managing its day-to-day affairs.

A bench of Chief Justice Surya Kant and Justice JK Maheshwari, which fixed the schedule for the poll process, said that the final ward-wise reservation list shall be published by the state government by February 20, and made it clear that no further extension shall be granted.

The order was passed on a plea by the Karnataka government challenging the high court's December 2020 order that directed the State Election Commission to hold BBMP elections expeditiously after finalising the electoral rolls.

The top court is monitoring the compliance of its earlier orders regarding polls to the BBMP and the newly created municipal corporations within the Greater Bengaluru Area (GBA).

During the hearing, senior advocate Abhishek Singhvi, appearing for the Karnataka government, submitted that the exercise of finalising and notifying ward-wise reservations is underway and will be done within a month.

The bench took the statement on record and fixed February 20 as the final deadline for publication of the list of reservations.

Senior advocate KN Phanindra, appearing for the State Election Commission (SEC), informed the court that the date for publication of the final voter list was fixed as March 16, keeping in mind the fixture of board and college examinations. He submitted that educational institutions will be used as polling stations and teachers will be deployed for election duties.

Phanindra added that Board examinations are likely to conclude by May end and the polls to the local bodies can be held thereafter.

The bench ordered, "The elections in all circumstances shall be concluded before June 30, 2026."

In its December 2020 judgment, the high court upheld the constitutional validity of the Karnataka Municipal Corporation Third Amendment Act, 2020, which increased the number of BBMP wards.

The high court had, however, "read down" the amendment, holding that it would not apply to elections that ought to have been held under Article 243 of the Constitution before the amendment came into effect.

On December 18, 2020, the top court stayed the high court order, and in 2022, it asked the state government to complete the process of delimitation of wards for BBMP and to notify the same within eight weeks.

The Karnataka government earlier notified reservations for 369 wards across five newly carved municipal corporations in the Greater Bengaluru Area.

Unlike the previous civic body polls, which were held for 198 wards, the next elections will be held for 369 wards across five corporations, an increase of 171. —BMB

BPL ration card purge delivers massive monthly savings

Data verification drive ends cash transfers and subsidised food for tax-paying households

Sridhar.Vivan
@timesofindia.com
TWEETS @sridharvMIRROR

Ration distribution halted temporarily for households flagged in the audit

Officials say linking ration databases with income filings revealed widespread misuse, triggering large-scale exits from guarantee schemes

What began as a routine exercise to weed out ineligible BPL ration cards has quietly turned into a money saver for the state. In the process of tightening welfare eligibility, the State government has unlocked monthly savings of over 110 crore, proving that cleaning up beneficiary lists can be just as effective as cutting expenditure.

Silent windfall

By cancelling around 4.5 lakh Below Poverty Line cards that did not meet eligibility norms, the government has reduced the financial burden of its guarantee schemes without rolling back any benefits for genuine recipients. "The move has led to the automatic exit of these cardholders from schemes such as Gruha Lakshmi and other social security programmes, directly easing pressure on the state exchequer," an official said. The Food and Civil Supplies Department undertook a statewide verification by matching ration card data with income tax records. The exercise revealed that many beneficiaries had higher incomes, with at least one family member paying income tax. Once identified, names were deleted from beneficiary lists across schemes, bringing an immediate halt to payouts.

The largest gain has come from the Gruha Lakshmi scheme, where the government is saving nearly 90 crore every month after ineligible beneficiaries were removed. Savings did not stop there. These households were also drawing heavily subsidised foodgrains — nearly 72.5 lakh quintals every month — costing the state about 22 crore. With the ration supply stopped, that expense has also been eliminated.

Officials say the exercise has sharpened the focus of welfare delivery, ensuring benefits reach only those who truly qualify. In simple terms, fewer wrong beneficiaries have meant more money retained by the government, without announcing fresh cuts or unpopular decisions.

The clean-up, however, has not been without friction. Around 7.76 lakh ration cards have been placed on a 'suspect list' and may face cancellation next. Many cardholders complain their cards were cancelled without prior notice, merely because one family member paid income tax. "Removing the ineligible name would have been fairer than cancelling the entire card," said Lakshmma, whose card is on hold. The government remains firm. Ministers have clarified that anyone paying income tax will be excluded from cash benefit schemes such as Gruha Lakshmi, regardless of whether the family holds a BPL or APL card. Officials have also said more cards may be converted or cancelled as scrutiny continues, though exact numbers are yet to be known. "What started as a welfare clean-up has ended up saving more than 1,300 crore a year, showing that sometimes better data can do the work of big budget cuts," an official added.

Karnataka has 75% BPL cards, says Muniyappa

Meanwhile, Food Minister KH Muniyappa has flagged the unusually high number of BPL cards in Karnataka, saying the figure has touched nearly 75 per cent of the population, against the permissible limit of 50 per cent. He said the state, despite being the second-highest tax-paying state after Maharashtra, has an unexpectedly large BPL base. "The government is identifying ineligible beneficiaries and shifting them to the APL category, while continuing to accept new applications. Around three lakh applications are currently under verification, and fresh ration card applications will be invited from February," Muniyappa added.

MLA targeted online: Man arrested over vulgar posts

The Karnataka Police have arrested a man for posting objectionable remarks on the Instagram account of Congress MLA Nayana Motamma. The accused has been identified as Yakshit Raj, a resident of Ramanagar, police said on Monday. Nayana Motamma represents the Mudigere Assembly constituency in Chikkamagaluru district and is the daughter of senior politician Motamma.

According to the police, MLA Nayana Motamma has two Instagram accounts — one used for sharing personal content and the other for political activities. The accused allegedly posted vulgar and humiliating comments on her personal account, including remarks about her clothing.

MLA Nayana Motamma's personal assistant, Shamshuddin, lodged a police complaint in this regard in October 2025 at the Mudigere police station. The complaint stated that the accused had been continuously targeting the MLA by posting objectionable comments, particularly focusing on her attire.

Following the complaint, the police launched a search operation and arrested the accused at his workplace in Bengaluru. Preliminary investigation has revealed that the accused repeatedly posted objectionable comments with the intention of humiliating the MLA.

Reacting to the incident, MLA Nayana Motamma said, "I oppose the mindset of stereotyping women. If I wear sleeveless clothes, they brand me as a politician who does not work. They stoop to the level of calling us characterless. They make such comments from accounts without profile photos. I will face them one day." The accused has been remanded to judicial custody, and further investigation is underway.

Earlier, the Cyber Crime unit of the Bengaluru Police made multiple arrests for posting obscene comments against Kannada actress Ramya on social media.

The arrests were made following an investigation that used IP address tracking and social media ID analysis by the Central Crime Branch (CCB) cyber team.

Actress and ex-MP Ramya filed a police complaint in July 2025 against individuals who posted abusive, threatening, and vulgar messages online, including rape and death threats. The harassment, mainly from actor Darshan's fans, followed her comments on the Renukaswamy murder case, in which Darshan is the prime accused.

The abuse followed Ramya's post demanding justice in the Renukaswamy case. Vijayalakshmi, Darshan's wife, said police delayed action on her complaint, unlike Ramya's. **–IANS**

BM Trippin' Tales

Consumer Connect Initiative

Government backing boosts conservation hopes across Gadag's historic landscape

Ancient Lakkundi steps into spotlight

Sridhar.Vivan
@timesofindia.com
TWEETS @sridharvMIRROR

Nestled deep in Gadag district, Lakkundi is a hidden gem of Chalukya heritage, waiting for the curious traveller from Bengaluru willing to embark on a longer journey. Known as the 'karmabhoomi' of Danachintamani Attimabbe, this village is home to over 16 recently state-protected monuments, including intricately carved temples and ancient stepwells that reflect the grandeur of the 11th and 12th centuries.

State protection

The Karnataka government's recent declaration of these 16 monuments as 'State Protected' brings a sense of security to this historic village. Siddalingeshwara Patil, a heritage adviser, explains, "These monuments stood neglected for decades. The official recognition now ensures preservation and proper maintenance. Lakkundi is no longer just a forgotten village; in fact, it is a safeguarded heritage site." Among the protected sites are the Eshwara, Kalleshwara, Maruti,

Lakkundi temples showcase centuries-old carvings, stepwells, and heritage splendour

Ramalingeshwara and Veerabhadreshwara temples, along with stepwells such as Kanneer Bavi and Hanuman Bavi.

For Bengaluru tourists, Lakkundi offers a rare combination of history and serenity. Descending into the ancient stepwells, one witnesses masterful stonework and an ingenious approach to water conservation. The temples, serene yet imposing, offer ample space for quiet reflection and photography. Every carved pillar and frieze tells a story of devotion, artistry and a civilisation that valued precision and aesthetics.

Tourism potential

Lakkundi is slowly emerging as a heritage hotspot beyond popular sites such as Hampi or Pattadakal. Meera N, a Bengaluru-based traveller, says, "It's a long journey, but that's part of Lakkundi's charm. It feels untouched, authentic and less crowded, perfect for those who love history without tourist throngs." With state-backed protection and plans for infrastructure development, Lakkundi promises a rewarding experience for the patient traveller.

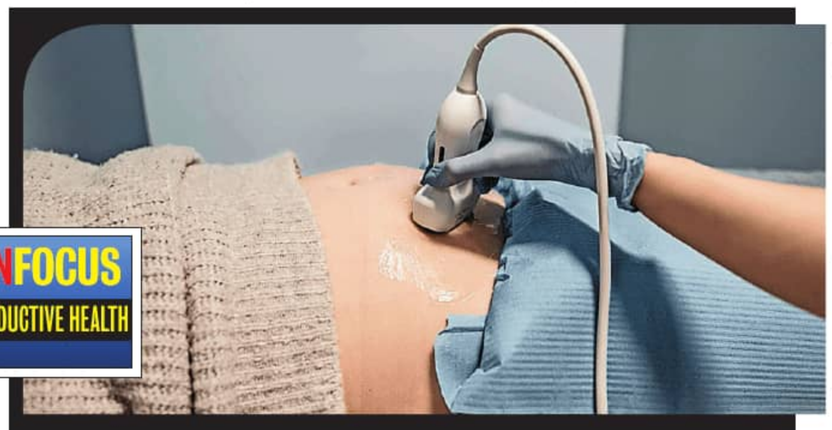
Walking through the village, one meets locals who live alongside history. Raghav, a guide and resident, says, "These monuments are part of our lives. Festivals, rituals, even daily routines revolve around them. Now that the government recognises their importance, tourism can grow responsibly, benefiting both heritage and the community."

Fertility-preserving treatments offer hope for cancer patients

With early detection and modern medical techniques, patients can successfully preserve fertility while treating cervical cancer

As cervical cancer continues to affect women during their reproductive years, doctors are increasingly focusing on ways to protect fertility while delivering essential treatment. With advances in cancer care and reproductive medicine, several fertility-preserving options are now being discussed with patients at the time of diagnosis.

INFOCUS REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH



Cervical cancer often affects women in their reproductive years, making fertility preservation an important concern

Dr B Ramesh, Chief Consultant - Obstetrician, Gynaec Laparosurgeon and IVF Specialist, Altius Hospital, said that cervical cancer often affects women in their reproductive years, making fertility preservation an important concern. He said the first step is prevention and early detection. "HPV vaccination can prevent up to 90 per cent of cervical cancers, while regular Pap smears and HPV testing enable early diagnosis, when fertility-sparing options are possible. For early-stage cancer, cone biopsy (conisation) removes only the affected part of the cervix, preserving the uterus. In slightly advanced cases, a radical trachelectomy—especially via laparoscopy—removes the cervix while keeping the uterus intact. Laparoscopic surgery offers precise cancer removal, minimal blood loss, faster recovery, and better preservation of reproductive organs," explained Dr Ramesh.

He said that medical options can also help. "Neoadjuvant chemotherapy can shrink tumours before surgery, making fertility preservation feasible. When radiation is needed, ovarian transposition can protect ovarian function. Additionally, egg or embryo freezing provides future conception options when fertility-sparing surgery isn't possible," he noted.

He said with early detection, HPV vaccination, and modern laparoscopic and medical techniques, many women can successfully preserve fertility while effectively treating cervical cancer.

Dr Snehadarshini Karanth, Gynaecologist and IVF Specialist, Birla Fertility and IVF, highlighted that women diagnosed with cervical cancer today have access to several fertility-preserving options, depending on the stage of the disease and the treatment plan.

She said that in early-stage cervical cancer, fertility-sparing surgeries such as radical trachelectomy can be considered. This procedure removes the cervix and surrounding tissues while preserving the uterus, allowing the possibility of future pregnancy under careful medical supervision, she explained. "For women who require chemotherapy or radiation therapy, fertility preservation should ideally be planned before treatment begins. Egg freezing and embryo freezing are effective options that allow women to store healthy eggs or embryos for future use. These techniques have significantly improved over the years, offering higher success rates," she noted. —BMB

INBRIEF

Stray dog care may cost city up to ₹18 crore

Bengaluru civic bodies may have to spend up to Rs 18 crore annually to shelter and care for stray dogs identified in crowded public places, including hospitals, educational institutions and transport hubs. The move follows a Supreme Court order directing authorities to relocate dogs from high-footfall areas to designated shelters and ensure preventive measures against dog bites.

The Greater Bengaluru Authority and five city corporations have identified 4,428 stray dogs from 2,816 institutions, with the highest numbers reported in Bengaluru North and Central zones. A GBA official said, "As many as 19 shelter sites have been earmarked, and the government is considering handing over operations to NGOs. Officials said a larger stray dog management plan costing about Rs 184 crore has also been drawn up, covering sterilisation, vaccination, microchipping, staffing and food supply, as the city grapples with an estimated stray dog population of 2.79 lakh." BMB

BDA hands over major layouts to GBA

The Urban Development Department has officially transferred several Bangalore Development Authority (BDA) layouts to the Greater Bengaluru Authority, clearing the way for local civic bodies to take over administration and tax collection. The layouts include Banashankari 6th Phase and its extensions, JP Nagar 8th and 9th Phases, Anjanapura Township and extensions, and Sir M Visvesvaraya Layout.

As per the notification, civic authorities can recover pending taxes in these areas. Where basic infrastructure like roads and parks is incomplete, BDA will bear 50 per cent of the development cost, with the balance to be shared by the civic body and the Water Board. The funds must be used only for providing basic amenities. Authorities have also been directed to maintain proper records, notify parks and open spaces in the gazette, and ensure that areas with land ownership disputes are not included in the transfer. BMB

SPORTS ROUND-UP

K'taka enters semis for Vijay Hazare Trophy

Karnataka stormed into the semi-finals of the Vijay Hazare Trophy after registering a comprehensive 55-run victory over Mumbai via the VJD method in a rain-affected quarter-final clash.

Chasing a target of 255, Karnataka were well in control of the contest before rain and bad light brought an early end to their innings. At the time of interruption, they were cruising at 187/1 in 33 overs, comfortably ahead of the required rate, which eventually sealed their place in the last four.

Devdutt Padikkal missed a hundred, as he remained unbeaten on 81 off 95 balls, with eleven boundaries. He found excellent support in Karun Nair, who remained not out on 74 off 80 deliveries, also striking 11 boundaries in a fluent knock.

The Padikkal-Nair partnership ensured that Karnataka never looked under threat during the chase, and kept Mumbai's bowlers under pressure.

Karnataka lost one wicket in the innings, that of captain Mayank Agarwal, who scored 12 before being dismissed by Mohit Avasthi. Earlier, Karnataka's bowling unit delivered a clinical performance as they restricted the Mumbai side to what appears to be a manageable total on the board. ANI

At 37, Kohli reinvents himself to extend ODI dominance

Virat Kohli has tweaked his approach to counter-attack early in his innings and put bowlers under pressure to flip the momentum for India, the batting stalwart said after his match-winning knock in Sunday's one-day international against New Zealand.

The number three batter crafted 93 off 91 balls as India chased down a target of 301 with one over to spare en route to a four-wicket victory in the opener in Vadodara. After opener Rohit Sharma fell for 26 in the ninth over, Kohli refused to retreat into a defensive shell.

Instead, he took the initiative in a match-defining 118-run stand with skipper Shubman Gill (56), using controlled aggression.

In his 17th year in international cricket, he continues to reinvent himself and said he now aims to make the most of the first 20 deliveries after coming in at first drop. "There's no point waiting around for too long. But at the same time, you don't play outrageous shots. You still stick to your strengths, but you back yourself enough to put the opposition on the back foot," he said. Reuters

Private firm issues apology after job post seeks 'non-Kannada speaking' candidate

A private company issued a public apology after its HR department released a job advertisement on a job portal seeking a candidate who does not know the Kannada language, explicitly mentioning "Non-Kannada HR," assuring that the organisation will keep a check that such incidents don't recur in the future.

Lakshmi Narayan, who is associated with the company, released a video apology from the JP Nagar office at Bengaluru, and said, "Namaskar to all Kannadigas. We are talking from the JP Nagar office in Bengaluru. The ad was reported to HR from our Kolkata office. We operate across the country, and Kolkata is our sole branch. We are seeking an apology from Kannadigas. As such an ad was given, we will look into it so that such incidents do not happen again. We also apologise to all pro-Kannada organisations. We will be cautious so that such wrong things will never happen in future."

The apology follows a recent row that erupted after an HR at a private firm in JP Nagar, Bengaluru, posted a job advertisement on a job portal with a very specific preference for "Non-Kannada speaking" candidates for the post.

The advertisement quickly gained traction, angered Kannadigas, and drew heavy criticism on X (formerly Twitter).I. ANI

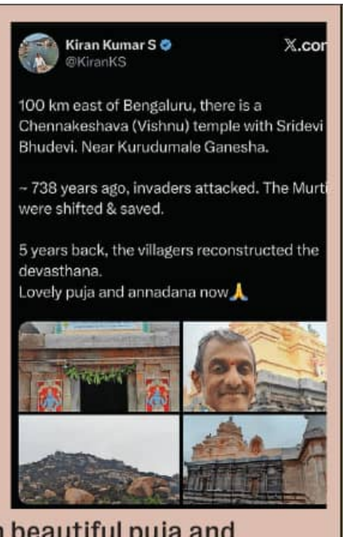
SOCIALTATTLE

What's Tweeting

A social media user highlighted that freshly resurfaced Hopefarm Channasandra Road was dug up again for pipeline work, calling it sheer negligence and demanding that the authorities plan properly to prevent ruining roads so soon after repair.

Bangalore Metro Updates
SHAME!! Will GBA/Govt take an action?
Hopefarm–Channasandra Road is one of the highest traffic density roads in the area and is almost always in poor condition. Getting a fully asphalted road here feels like sheer luck, and it was resurfaced only recently.
What followed immediately afterward is a crime and a shame. The entire stretch has been dug up again for pipeline work, sheer negligence and a complete lack of coordination between departments. Do they even have brains!?
What action will GBA take against those responsible for destroying newly laid roads?

@KiranKS, a platform x user highlighted About 100 km east of Bengaluru, the historic Chennakeshava temple with Sridevi and Bhudevi near Kurudumale Ganesha marks 738 years of heritage that was saved from invaders centuries ago and rebuilt by villagers five years back with beautiful puja and annadana today.


Kiran Kumar S
@KiranKS
100 km east of Bengaluru, there is a Chennakeshava (Vishnu) temple with Sridevi Bhudevi. Near Kurudumale Ganesha.
~ 738 years ago, invaders attacked. The Murti were shifted & saved.
5 years back, the villagers reconstructed the devasthana.
Lovely puja and annadana now

Bengaluru Post
@bengaluru... · 5m
ಎಳ್ಳು- ಬೆಲ್ಲ ರೆಡಿನಾ? #Bengaluru
Bengaluru is ready for Makara Sankranthi — the first festival of the New Year!

Bengaluru is all set for Makara Sankranthi! Sugarcanes are out, streets are festive, and the city is buzzing with excitement as people prepare to celebrate the first festival of the New Year with joy and tradition.

Inflation rises to 3-month high of 1.33 in Dec; remains below RBI tolerance band

Retail inflation rose to a three-month high of 1.33 per cent in December, mainly due to higher prices of food items, but remained below the Reserve Bank of India's lower tolerance level.

The Consumer Price Index (CPI) based headline inflation was 0.71 per cent in November and 5.22 per cent in December 2024. The inflation stood at 1.44 per cent in September.

The food inflation in December was (-) 2.71 per cent, and remained negative for the seventh consecutive month.

"The increase in headline inflation and food inflation during the month of December 2025 is mainly attributed to an increase in inflation of personal care and effects, vegetables, meat and fish, egg, spices and pulses and products," the National Statistics Office (NSO) said while releasing the CPI data.

The headline inflation in urban areas was higher at 2.03 per cent compared to 0.76 per cent in rural India. The retail inflation remained below the Reserve Bank of India's lower tolerance limit for the fourth consecutive month in December.

The government has mandated the central bank to ensure inflation remains at 4 per cent, with a margin of 2 per cent on either side.

According to the NSO data, the top five major states with high inflation during December were Kerala (9.49 per cent), Karnataka (2.99 per cent), Andhra Pradesh (2.71 per cent), Tamil Nadu (2.67 per cent), and Jammu and Kashmir (2.26 per cent).

On the other hand, retail inflation was negative in Assam, Bihar, Haryana, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, and Uttar Pradesh.

Aditi Nayar, Chief Economist at Icra, said the retail inflation expectedly rose to 1.3 per cent in December 2025 from 0.7 per cent in November, while printing marginally lower than Icra's estimate of 1.4 per cent for the month.

The uptick was driven by narrower deflation in the food and beverages segment, as well as hardening inflation in the miscellaneous items, she said.

"While the December 2025 MPC minutes suggest a possibility of another rate cut in February 2026, Icra believes that a pause is warranted at the current juncture. Besides, it would be prudent to wait and assess the updated CPI (base: 2024) and GDP (base: 2022-23) series, which are due to be released later in February, as these will determine the current growth-inflation mix and aid in forming a fresh outlook," Nayar said.

Dipti Deshpande, Principal Economist at Crisil, said the uptick was driven by food, where deflation narrowed as the high base effect gradually waned.

"Going ahead, CPI inflation is likely to inch up as the base effect for food fades further. We expect CPI inflation to rise to 5 per cent in fiscal 2027, from an estimated 2.5 per cent in the current fiscal as food inflation normalises," Deshpande said.

Paras Jasrai, Associate Director, India Ratings and Research, said the core inflation jumped to a 28-month high of 4.6 per cent in December 2025, as personal care items' inflation touched a fresh high of 28.1 per cent, mainly due to the increase in gold and silver prices. **PTI**

What your 2026 will look like...

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

bring what traffic police officials describe as natural relief.

On most working days, Bengaluru's roads resemble a slow-moving river of vehicles, flowing from suburbs to tech parks, markets, schools and offices. But since last year, the experience and many social media posts has shown that during long weekends, the traffic scenario changes. Many professionals pack their bags for holidays or trips back home, families head to their native places, students return home, and the city's otherwise relentless pace begins to soften.

Starting from Makar Sankranthi, there are five holidays that's falling on Monday, five holidays on Tuesday, two holidays on Thursday and four holidays on Friday, additionally many companies provide holidays on Saturday and Sunday because of which employees make travel plans.

Karthik Reddy, Joint Commissioner of Police (Traffic), explained that when Friday is declared a holiday, traffic congestion typically spikes on Thursday evening and again on Sunday evening. However, during extended long weekends of four to five days, overall congestion in the city can drop by nearly 60–70%, though traffic remains heavy on the day before the holiday as commuters leave the city.

He added that when people return, congestion rises marginally by about 10–20% after 6 pm due to staggered entry and exit timings. On the eve of a holiday, traffic tends to be particularly dense as many commuters head to their hometowns or travel out of the city after work, relying on buses, cabs, and two-wheelers, resulting in slow-moving traffic near exit points during peak evening hours.

"If you observe carefully, traffic patterns at exit roads and major junctions show a clear change during long weekends. For instance, with Sankranti falling on the 15th, people who take leave on the 16th will get a four-day holiday. During such periods, traffic at inner-city junctions reduces by nearly 60–70%. However, this does not mean that 60–70% of people leave the city. In reality, only about 20% travel out of Bengaluru, while the rest remain in the city, with many choosing to stay indoors or other plans," said Reddy.

The reduction in traffic is not proportional. If we calculate the reduction based on the number of vehicles, congestion decreases by about 20–30%. Since the Outer Ring Road has a higher carrying capacity, traffic there appears smoother compared to inner-city junctions. Each area's congestion depends on the width of road, the number of vehicles passing by and residents living in that area and other reasons.

The impact is visible in small moments and also in social media. A delivery rider reaches his destination early and pauses for tea instead of

Since the Outer Ring Road has a higher carrying capacity, traffic there appears smoother compared to inner-city junctions

weaving through traffic. A bus driver sticks to schedule, surprised by the absence of usual choke points. Office-goers who stay back find themselves reaching work in half the usual time, rolling down their windows to enjoy a rare stretch of open road.

However a social media post in X had stated that "Next year Bengaluru traffic situation will be better.. No, No we aren't building good roads or increasing public transport. Most public holidays fall on Thursday, Friday or Monday .. 3 or 4 day weekends for the traffic to move to Mysore, Chikmagalur, Ooty, Wayanad, Chennai or Kochi .. Yaay! Looking forward to driving in Bengaluru on those weekends.."

A corporate employee said that those working on US-based schedules are unlikely to get a holiday, but employees of Indian-based companies are more likely to take an additional day off.

4,000 cases of defective silencers

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

being a no-honking zone. The noise level has certainly gone up. We have been requesting the Horticulture Department and BTP to install 'no-honking' boards on major roads inside the Park, including Hudson Circle to High Court, Siddalingaiah Circle to KR Circle, and High Court to UB City," said Dr Umesh Kumar, president of Cubbon Park Walkers' Association.

City-based anti-noise pollution activists say there is no apparent change in noise pollution levels from vehicles.

Official data from Karnataka State Pollution Control Board's (KSPCB) noise monitoring stations shows that decibel values in homey neighbourhoods and silent zones of the city are continuously surpassing acceptable noise levels.

While the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) has set permissible sound limits of 50dB for the day and 40dB during the night in silent zones, the average monthly nighttime noise levels near RVCE, a silent zone in the city, were more than 90 percent higher than the permissible limit in November. At NIMHANS, another silent zone in the city, the average nighttime noise level was found to be 31 percent higher.

Notably, the Indian Motor Vehicles Act (MVA) of 1988 bars alteration in motor vehicles with those originally specified by the manufacturer and prescribes that violators be punished.

"The Act has provisions to impose higher penalties under alterations to motor vehicles. While a Rs 1,000 fine applies to first-time offenders, it doubles for subsequent offences. However, the violations are neither being monitored strictly on ground, nor the provisions, as mentioned in the Act, are being implemented in Bengaluru," said an activist.

Your Connect

jobs

SITUATION VACANT

OTHER VACANCIES

WORK FROM HOME

EXCELLENT INCOME CRISIL AAA RATED TOP MNC IN BLR Hiring Rtd Govt, Pvt, Defence, Bank, Teacher, VRS, NRI, IT, CA, Sr.CITIZEN, HOUSEWIFE Age: 30-70 Years. Call: 9845673443 / 7002808202

Bennett & Coleman
THE TIMES OF INDIA

Readers are recommended to make appropriate enquires and seek appropriate advice before sending money, incurring any expenses, acting on medical recommendations or entering into any commitment in relation to any advertisement published in this publication. All creatives marked as Advertorial, Spotlight and Promotional Features are to be treated as Advertisements. The Times of India Group doesn't vouch for any claims made by the Advertisers of the products and services. The Printer, Publisher, Editor, and the owners of The Times of India Group publications shall not be held liable for any consequences, in the event such claims are not honoured by the Advertisers.

EARN 50000pm with zero investment free training from Top Co.VRS/Rtd official/ Bankers Tax Consultants CA/housewives Call: 7483572721, 9035060141

real estate

BANGALORE PROPERTIES

ELECTRONIC CITY

Electronic City Phase-1
BDA-RERA Approved
Gated Community
PLOTS FOR SALE
MODERN LIFESTYLE
Amenities, Fully Equipped Clubhouse, Landscaped Parks and Premium Infrastructure. 7090770033

personal

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Madhukara Sadananda R/o Rajanna Lane, Ganigara Pet, Nagarathpet Cross, B'luru-560002 have changed my name to Madhukar Sadananda

I Manikanta A S/O, Thamas Alias Arumugam R/o Rrr Residency, No. 3, Door No. 202, 7th Cross, Hennur Main Road, Kacharakanahalli, Bangalore - 560084 have changed my name to Michael Marshall .

I Anjan Lakshminarayana S/O, Lakshminarayan M R/o N0-354,5th A Cross, Sharadamba Nagar,jalahalli, Bengaluru-560013 have changed my name to Anjan Lakshminarayan.

SANTOSH PATIL R/o 86/A, 3rd Road, Mahimayya Enclave, Thippenahalli, Doddabidarakallu, Nagasandra Post, Bengaluru 5600073 have changed my name to SANTOSH MAHESHGOUDA PATIL I Shall be called by this name for all purpose.

I, Devansh Mashru R/o. Elegant Embassy North Apt No 410, B block, 4th Floor, 965/12/1-1, Jakkur Village, Yelahanka BLR-64, changed My Name from Mashru Devansh Deepak to Devansh Mashru for all further purposes. (Reference Date of Birth 28/08/1980).

I, MAHABOOB BEE, R/o No.75, Ground Floor, 3rd Cross, Kannada Kasturi Nagara, Ganesha Saw Mill Road, T. Dasarahalli, Bengaluru – 560057, have changed my name as MAHABOOBBI, vide affidavit dated 09.01.2026, sworn before notary Anuradha D, Bengaluru.

I, Mahaboob Basha S/o Vali Saheb Shaik R/o 128, 1st Main,3rd Cross, Kempegowda Layout Laggere B'lore-560058 have changed my name to Shaik Mahaboob Basha.

I, S Sajidunnisa Anjum W/o Mohammed Ismail r/o 26/2,2nd floor Ahmed sait road,frazer town, Bangalore-5 have changed my name to S Sajidunnisa Begum for all purposes.

I, Sajidunnisa Begum W/o Mohammed Ismail r/o 26/2,2nd floor Ahmed sait road,frazer town, Bangalore-5 have changed my name to S Sajidunnisa Begum for all purposes.

I, Bhabani Sunathbandhu Bit R/o #502, Makhthoom AAA Abode,plot No 25 and 26 ,Sahasra Sorrel Rose Layout ,Whitefield,Bangalore-560066 have changed my name to Bhabani Bit.

I, Shabreen Taj Baji Syed, W/o Misba Ul Zama Shaikh, residing at 40,GRND FLR,16TH MAIN,17TH CROSS,BTM 2ND STAGE,Bengaluru-560076 have changed my name to Shabreen Taj for all future purposes.

I, Adithya Swamyar Budubalu, s/o Madhusudan Swamyar, R/o #415 4th Main 2nd Cross BCMC Layout Raghuvanahalli Talaghattapura B'luru-560062, changed my name to Adithya Swamyaar for all purposes.

I Sreenivasa Murthy Mellahalli Singraiah S/O, Singraiah R/o N0-55,grd Flr,green Park,muneshwara Lyt,near Akshaya, Nursing Home,attur,yelahanka Po, Bengaluru-560064 have changed my name to Srinivasamurthy Mellahalli Singraiah.

HEALTH TIP: Cold milk: Rich in calcium, neutralises acidity, aids digestion, maintains pH balance, and promotes strong bones

Peppermint tea: May aid digestion and relieve stomach discomfort. Avoid it if you have acid reflux or GERD, as it may worsen symptoms

BangaloreMirror | 9
Tuesday, January 13, 2026
mybangaloremirror@timesofindia.com
facebook.com/thebangaloremirror
@BangaloreMirror

MUSK'S METAL DREAM WALKS

Humanoid helpers promise chores relief, yet spark fears of lonely lives ruled by emotion-reading machines

When Elon Musk talks about robotics, he rarely hides the ambition behind the dream.

Tesla's Optimus is pitched as an all-purpose humanoid robot that can do the heavy lifting on factory floors and free us from drudgery at home. Tesla is targeting a million of these robots over the next decade.

But is Musk likely to succeed? A few years ago, the thought of a friendly, capable household robot belonged in science fiction. We could imagine machines that danced, shifted boxes or played chess, but not ones that understood us well enough to be genuinely helpful. Then came generative artificial intelligence, or gen AI.

Whether your first encounter was with ChatGPT, Gemini or Copilot, many of us felt the same jolt of surprise. Here was a bot that seemed to understand us in a way we did not expect. That has made Musk's dream of a robot companion feel, if not close, then certainly closer.

Imagine leafing through a catalogue of robots the way we browse for home appliances. If a personal robot still feels too expensive, perhaps we might hire one part-time. Maybe a dance instructor that doubles as a therapist. Families could club together to buy a robot for an elderly relative. Some people might even buy one for themselves. The future Musk describes is not just mechanical; it is emotional.

Why the humanoid shape matters

The idea of robots that look like us can seem creepy and threatening. But there is also a practical explanation for the drive to make robots that resemble us.

A dishwasher is essentially a robot, but you have to load it yourself. A humanoid robot with hands and fingers could clear the table, load the dishwasher and then feed the pets too. In other words, engineers create humanoid robots because the world is designed for human bodies.

But the humanoid form also carries an emotional charge. A machine with a face and limbs hints at something more than functionality.

It is a promise of intelligence, empathy or companionship. Optimus taps into that deep cultural imagery. It is part practical engineering, part theatre and part invitation to believe we are close to creating machines that can live alongside us.

There are moments when a personal robot might be genuinely welcoming. Anyone who has been ill, or cared for someone who has been, can imagine the appeal of a helper that preserves dignity and independence.

Robots, unlike humans, are not born to judge. But there is also a risk in outsourcing too much of our social world to machines. If a robot is always there to tidy up the mess — practical or emotional — we may lose some of the tolerance and empathy that come from living among other people.

That is where the question of design becomes crucial. In the most dystopian version of life with generative AI-powered, chatty, dexterous robots, we retreat indoors, sealed inside our homes and attended to by machines that are endlessly "understanding" and quietly adoring.

Convenience is maximised, but something else is lost.

If sociability really does matter — if it is worth a little extra inconvenience to practise being human with other humans rather than only with chatbots — then the challenge becomes a practical one. How do we engineer a future that nudges us towards one another instead of gently pulling us apart?

One option is to rethink where conversation lies. Rather than building all-purpose, ever-chatty assistants into every corner of our lives, we could distribute AI across devices and limit what those devices talk about.

For example, a washing machine might discuss laundry, while a navigation system might discuss routes. But open-ended chatter — the kind that shapes identity, values and relationships — remains something that people do with people.

At a collective level, this kind of design choice could reshape workplaces and shared spaces, turning them back into environments that cultivate human conversation. That is, of course, only possible if people are encouraged to show up in person and put their phones away.

The real design challenge is not how to make machines more attentive to us, but how to make them better at guiding us back towards one another.

So it is worth asking what kind of domestic future we are quietly building. Will the robots we invite inside help us connect, or simply keep us company?

Good bots, bad bots

A good bot could help a socially anxious child get to school. It may nudge a lonely teenager towards local activities. Or it may tell a cantankerous old person, "There's a crime club starting in an hour at the library. We can pick up a paper on the way."

A bad bot leaves us exactly where we are: increasingly comfortable with a machine and less comfortable with each other.

Musk's humanoid dream may yet become real. The question is whether machines like Optimus will help us build stronger communities, or quietly erode the human connections we need most.

(By Berry Billingsley, Director of AI, Digital and Online Development, Swansea University, The Conversation)

MIRRORLIGHTS

India faces second-highest diabetes eonomic burden, US leads, China third, global costs soar

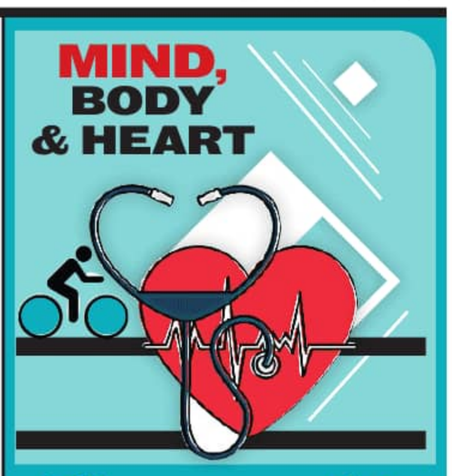
India faces the world's second-highest economic burden from diabetes, estimated at USD 11.4 trillion, after the United States (USD 16.5 trillion) and ahead of China (USD 11 trillion), according to a new study. Researchers from the International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis and Vienna University of Economics and Business assessed the economic impact of diabetes across 204 countries between 2020 and 2050.

Globally, the cost of diabetes amounts to around USD 10 trillion, excluding informal family care, roughly 0.2% of the world's annual GDP. When informal care is factored in, the figure jumps to USD 152 trillion, or 1.7% of global GDP, as caregivers often partially leave the labour market. Informal caregiving accounts for nearly 90% of the total economic burden, since diabetes prevalence exceeds mortality by a factor of 30 to 50.

High costs in India and China are largely due to large affected populations, while in the US, expensive treatment and diverted capital drive the burden. Treatment accounts for 41% of economic costs in high-income countries, compared with 14% in low-income nations, highlighting disparities in access to medical care.

"The United States faces the largest economic burden at INT$ 2.5 trillion, followed by India at INT$ 1.6 trillion and China at INT$ 1.0 trillion. Including informal care, these rise to INT$ 16.5 trillion, INT$ 11.4 trillion, and INT$ 11.0 trillion respectively," the study notes. An international dollar (INT$) is a statistical unit equivalent in purchasing power to the US dollar.

Diabetes' economic impact surpasses Alzheimer's and cancer. Researchers urge healthy lifestyles, early screening, and timely treatment. Over a quarter of global diabetes cases are in India, per a November 2024 Lancet study. —PTI



All you need to know about...

Diabetes toll

Parents constantly juggle satisfying children's hunger without compromising health. "I'm hungry. What's for a snack?" and "Is dinner ready?" are familiar refrains. What matters most is what goes on the plate — these choices shape growth, gut health, immunity, mood, sleep and daily functioning.

What's Really Happening Inside Your Child's Body?
Restlessness, poor concentration, disturbed sleep, tummy issues or sudden outbursts may signal gut imbalance. Refined sugar and ultra-processed foods disrupt gut bacteria, digestion, and nutrient absorption. With nearly 70 per cent of immunity in the gut, this can lower resistance to illness. Constant sugar spikes may also affect energy, emotions, sleep and hormones.

Sugar and the Hunger Confusion
Sugar interferes with leptin and ghrelin, hormones that signal fullness and hunger. Children may feel hungry even after eating, affecting metabolism, appetite and weight regulation.

The Real Fix Isn't Elimination, It's Education
Strict bans can backfire. Luke Coutinho recommends small, sustainable shifts:

- Whole fruit over juice
- Natural sweeteners like jaggery, dates, or bananas
- Homemade snacks instead of fried packets
- Plain yoghurt with fruit
- Dark chocolate instead of candy
- Gradual reduction works better than sudden bans, preventing mood crashes and resistance.

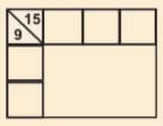
Sneaky Ingredients in Pretty Packaging
Bright packaging and mascots may hide high sugar content. Parents should read ingredient lists, check total vs added sugars, and watch portion sizes. Luke says Change starts at home.

— Femina

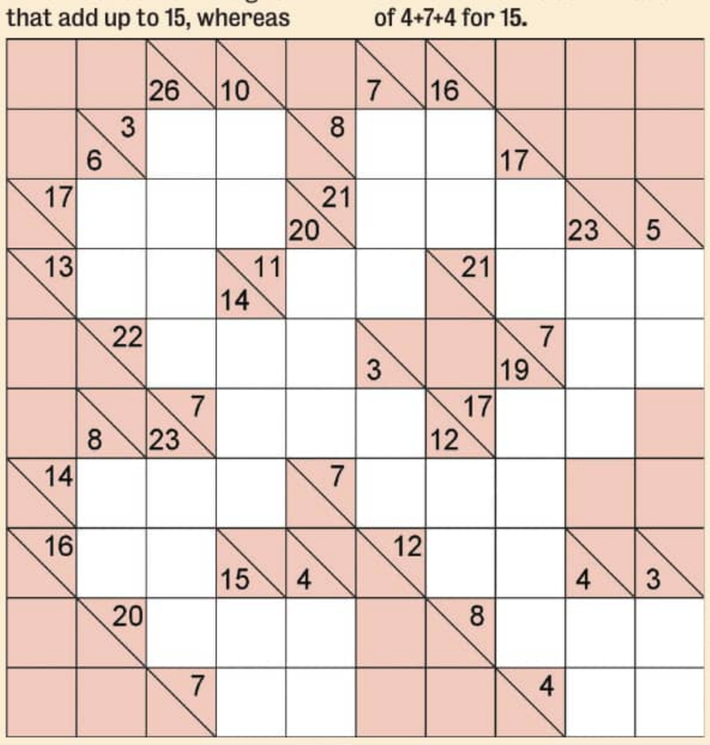
mybangaloremirror@timesofindia.com
facebook.com/theBangaloremirror
@BangaloreMirror

Kakuro

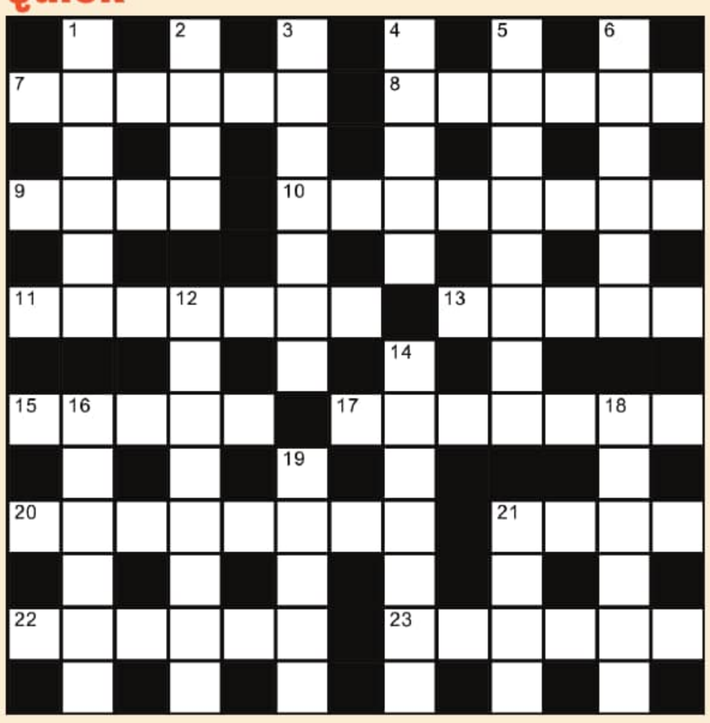
The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.



Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

7 Applauds (6)
8 First to bat (6)
9 Distinctive doctrines (4)
10 Keep a stiff ___ ___ : show fortitude? (5,3)
11 Opening of her box spilled out all the evil (7)
13 Subsidiary rule (5)
15 Drops or comes down (5)
17 Most unfeeling (7)
20 Spanish ranch (8)
21 Fourth largest asteroid (4)
22 Got by (4,2)
23 Interstellar gas cloud (6)

DOWN

1 The Old Man and ___ ___ : Ernest Hemingway's famous novel? (3,3)
2 Belonging to that girl? (4)
3 River mouth (7)
4 Dishes consisting of liquidized meat, vegetables, etc.? (5)
5 Turned traitor (8)
6 Part of the eye (6)
12 Stringed musical instrument (8)
14 Bangalore based tennis player who won the 2024 Australian Open doubles title (7)
16 The incarnation of a Hindu deity as Vishnu (6)
18 Maharashtra city (6)
19 Spy (5)
21 Triangular sails (4)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: K EQUALS U

TZTVQ MUIT QSK GUB, QSK'VT VTESVB; GDTB QSK ASXT, QSK OUT Y AUMMAT.

Linemaro

On a scale of 1 to 9, how free are you tomorrow night?

Mind chow

Let your life lightly dance on the edges of time like dew on the tip of a leaf

Joke of the day

Germans are flummoxed by humour, the Swiss have no concept of fun, the Spanish think there is nothing at all ridiculous about eating dinner at midnight, and the Italians should never, ever have been let in on the invention of the motor car.

Loop

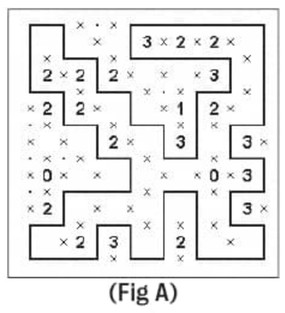
Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.

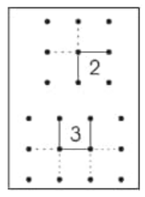
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

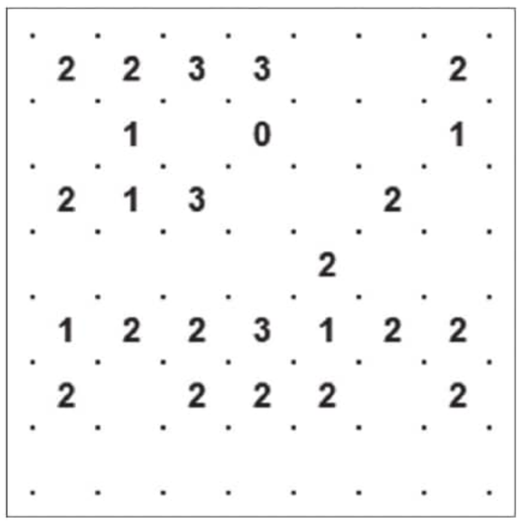
Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



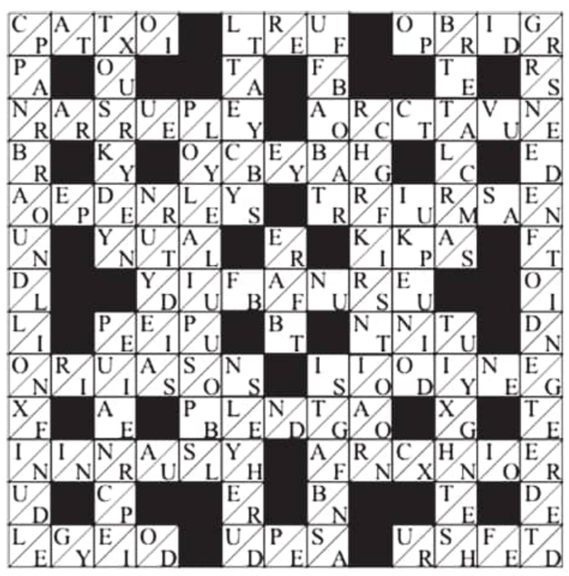
(Fig A)



(Fig B) Not Allowed



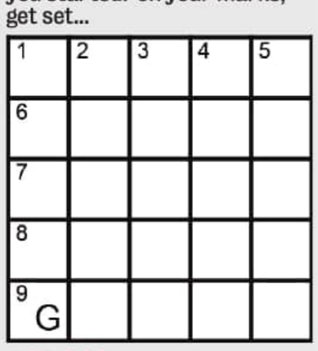
Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



ACROSS

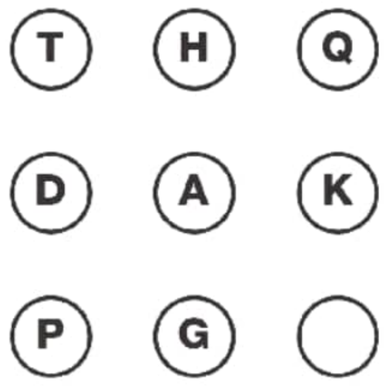
1 Atlas; 6 Chew L;
7 At ire; 8 In sen;
9 Gee do

DOWN

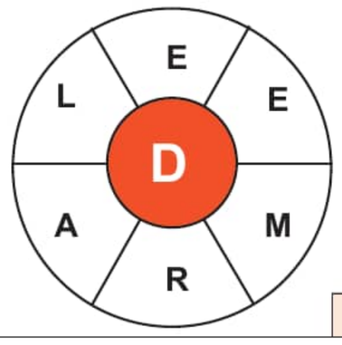
1 Wings; 2 A I ere;
3 No all; 4 Cadet;
5 Sheet

Mensapuzzle

Which letter replaces the blank and completes the sequence?



Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

20 Average; **23** Good; **26** Outstanding

SudokuChallenge

	8	1	7		3	5	2	
2								3
	6			4			8	
		3	2		8	7		
1								4
		6	9		4	1		
	9			3			4	
6								9
	1	4	8		9	3	7	

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.

Easy = 13

1 3 6 9

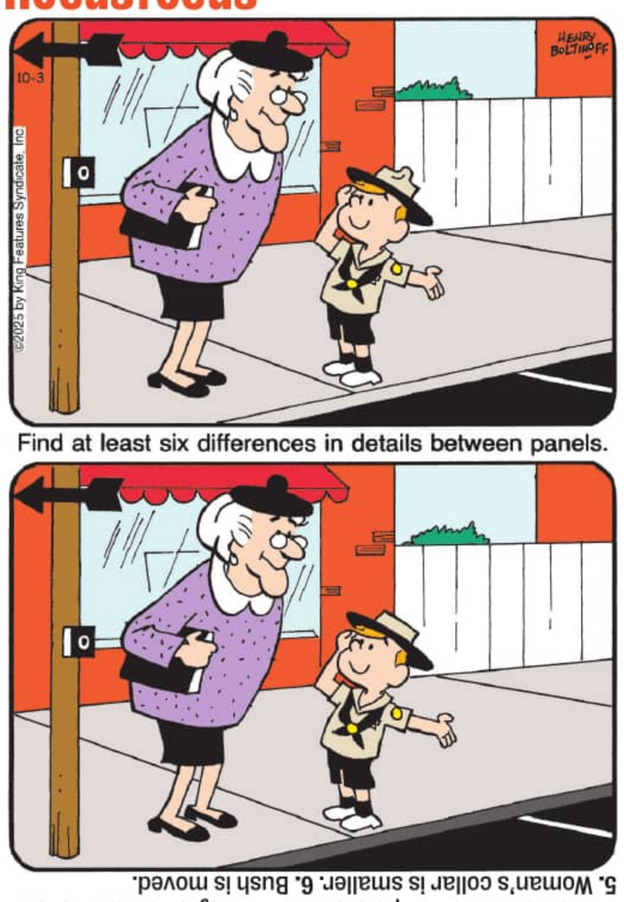
Medium = 12

3 4 6 7

Hard = 24

2 4 4 8

Hocusfocus



Find at least six differences in details between panels.

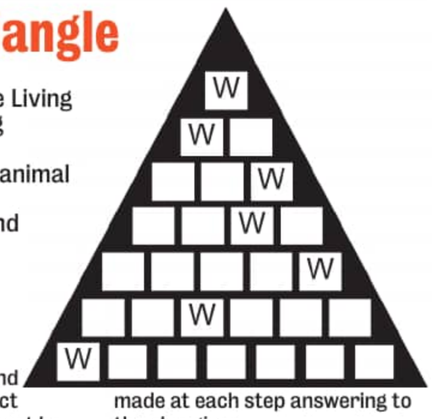
Differences: 1. Boy's arm is longer. 2. Woman's leg is moved. 3. Button on pole is lower. 4. Boy's hat is different. 5. Woman's collar is smaller. 6. Bush is moved.

Riddler

Find out what the animals are! (for example, "To run away or escape" could be a "flea")
1. A parent's female sibling 2. A mythical curse or bond 3. A second-person pronoun 4. Thin thread-like outgrowth from the skin 5. To exist. A form of 'am' or 'was.'

Alpha triangle

1 Watt, abbr.
2 Ayn Rand's _ The Living
3 Do some darning
4 Chops
5 Small mouselike animal
6 Nautical rope
7 On the other hand

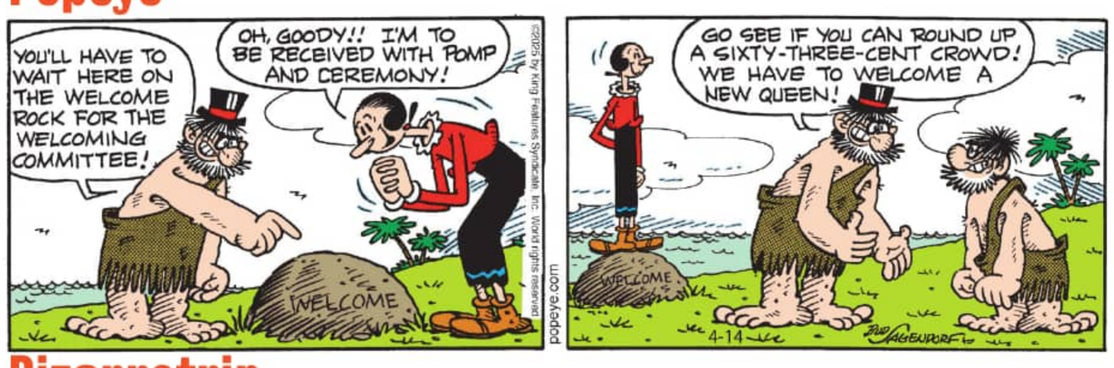


Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

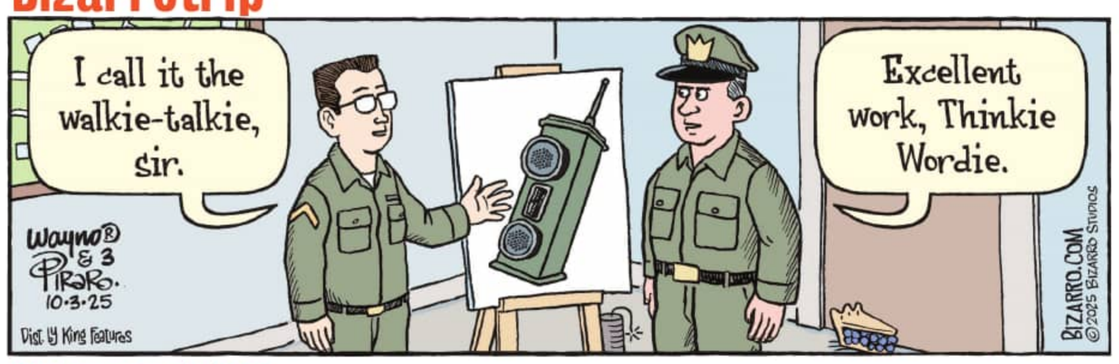
DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE »

COMICS

Popeye

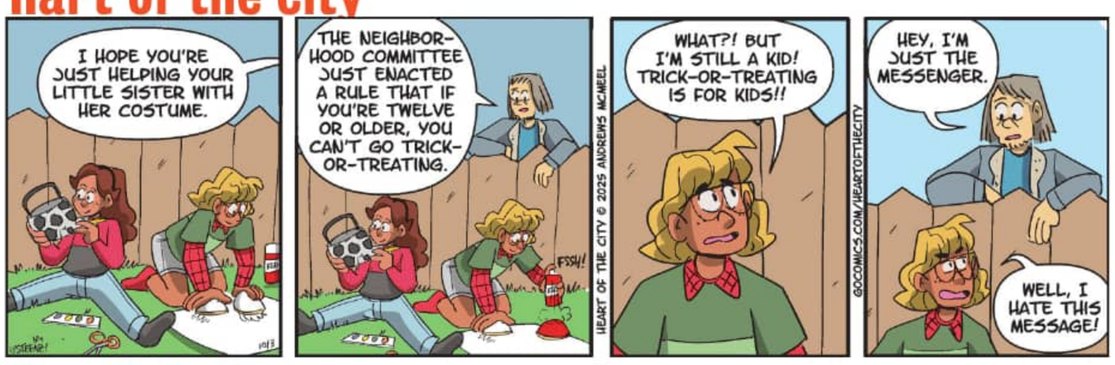

YOU'LL HAVE TO WAIT HERE ON THE WELCOME ROCK FOR THE WELCOMING COMMITTEE!
OH, GOODY!! I'M TO BE RECEIVED WITH POMP AND CEREMONY!
WELCOME
GO SEE IF YOU CAN ROUND UP A SIXTY-THREE-CENT CROWD! WE HAVE TO WELCOME A NEW QUEEN!
WELCOME
4-14
popeye.com

Bizarrotrip

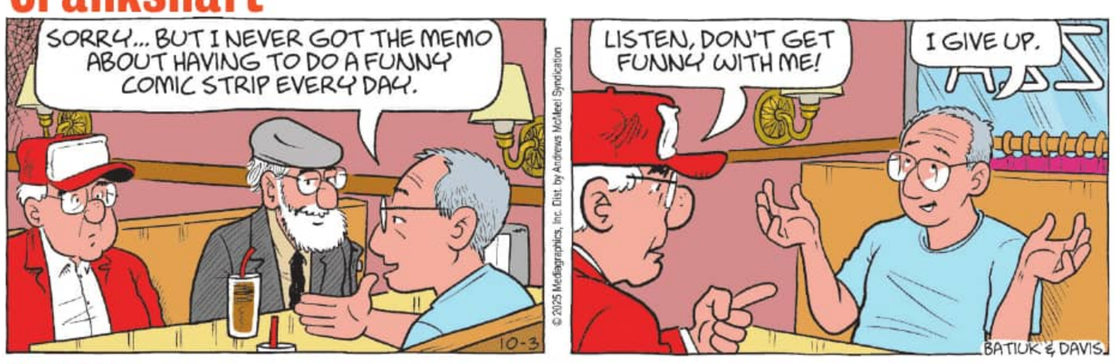

I call it the walkie-talkie, sir.
Excellent work, Thinkie Wordie.
Wayno & Piraro 10-3-25
Dist. by King Features
BIZARRO.COM ©2025 BIZARRO STUDIOS

Diamond Lil

Hart of the city


I HOPE YOU'RE JUST HELPING YOUR LITTLE SISTER WITH HER COSTUME.
THE NEIGHBORHOOD COMMITTEE JUST ENACTED A RULE THAT IF YOU'RE TWELVE OR OLDER, YOU CAN'T GO TRICK-OR-TREATING.
FSSH!
WHAT?! BUT I'M STILL A KID! TRICK-OR-TREATING IS FOR KIDS!!
HEY, I'M JUST THE MESSENGER.
WELL, I HATE THIS MESSAGE!
HEART OF THE CITY © 2025 AUDREWS MCMEEL
@COMICS.COM/HEARTOFTHECITY

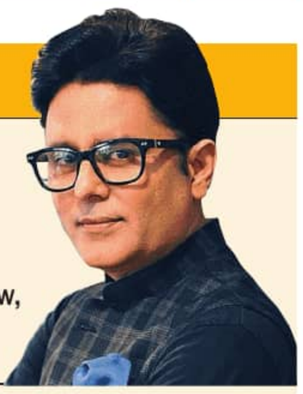
Crankshaft


SORRY... BUT I NEVER GOT THE MEMO ABOUT HAVING TO DO A FUNNY COMIC STRIP EVERY DAY.
LISTEN, DON'T GET FUNNY WITH ME!
I GIVE UP.
10-3
© 2025 Mediagraphics, Inc. Dist. by Andrews McMeel Syndication
BATIUK & DAVIS

Mutts

WRITTEN IN THE STARS

DR SUNDEEP KOCHAR



If it's your birthday today

This year brings a fresh, dynamic approach to your personal power. Do not hesitate to initiate bold changes and step into a leadership role. Your enthusiasm and originality are infectious and open new doors. Overcome old limitations by taking a calculated risk; this is the year toforge a completely new, successful path.

Aries Mar 21–Apr 20

Clear communication empowers you today. Expressing feelings openly brings refreshing confidence and helps relationships develop naturally. Honest conversation create smooter connections.

Taurus Apr 21–May 20

Spontaneous choices uplift your spirit today. Embrace unexpected moments, especially in romance, where bold guestures brings joy. Allow freedom to guide your actions, helping you rediscover excitement and heartfelt enthusiasm.

Gemini May 21–Jun 21

Gentle distance offers emotional clarity. Giving yourself space strengthens understanding. Tomorrow brings smoother communication, so enjoy peaceful moments that help your thoughts settle comfortably and positively.

Cancer Jun 22–July 23

Release expectations and trust your personal rhythm today. Inner calm guides better clarity. Fousing on self-care strengthen confidence , allowing love to unfold naturally without unnecessary pressure or worry.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23

Independence feels empowering today. Exploring new interests brings satisfaction and insight. This period of personal freedom encourages growth, heping you appriciate your strengths and discover fresh experiences.

Virgo Aug 24–Sep 23

Maintaining balance between professional focus and romantic interest keeps your day harmonious. Prioritising clear boundaries supports productivity and emotional peace. allowing both areas to flourish without unnecessary complications.

Libra Sep 24–Oct 22

Balancing friendship and romance strengthens harmony today. Thoughtful choices help maintain peace with everyone you value. Sharing time fairly deepens connections and brings a gentle sense of emotional fulfilment.

Scorpio Oct 23–Nov 22

Prioritising wellness brings renewed energy today. A restful approach helps you recharge before engaging deeply with lover or social plans. Personal care strengthens confidence and supports future emotional growth.

Sagittarius Nov 23–Dec 22

Love should feel uplifting, and today you rediscover that joy through simple pleasures and honest reflection. Stepping back deeply restores balance and encourages more meaningful future connections.

Capricorn Dec 23–Jan 20

Your composed energy attracts admiration today. Someone at work may show interest, and responding thouthfully brings warm possibility.Balanced confidence helps you explore connections naturally and comfortably.

Aquarius Jan 21–Feb 19

Your vibrant presence draws people towards you today. Inspiring enthusiasm makes conversations enjoyable and hepls new frinedships or connections flourish with ease. Welcome this attention and share your positive energy generously.

Pisces Feb 20–Mar 20

New perspectives reveal promising possibilities today. Observing situations with curiosity uncovers hidden strengths in people around you. This broadened insight supports wise decisions and encourages refreshing emotional growth.

www.sundeepkochar.com

KIDZONE

Ayesha Arbin, Bengaluru

Nandika Bagaria, Bengaluru

Kidzone, Bangalore Mirror, No. 74/2, Sanjana Plaza, 4th & 5th Floor, Elephant Rock Road, Jayanagar 3rd block, Bengaluru-560 011;
Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

SOLUTIONS

SOLVE IN 1M

5×(4/5)-1+5×3 =
4-1+15 =18

RIDDLER

1. Ant (Aunt),
2. Geese (Geas),
3. Ewe (You),
4. Hare (Hair) &
5. Bee (Be)

FAST FIVE

alder, armed, dale, dame, dare, deal, reed, dealer, dear, deem, deer, dermal, dram, dream, elder, EMERALD, lade, lamed, lard, lead, leader, made, medal, meld, read, reamed,

BULL'S EYE

G	E	O	D	E
N	I	N	E	S
I	R	A	T	E
W	E	L	C	H
S	A	L	A	T

STRIKE OUT

E	Y	E	D		U	P	S		U	S	E	D		
D		C		R		B		T		E				
X	E		P	E	N	T	A		G		E			
O	R	I	S	O	N		S	I	D	I	N	G		
I		P	E	P		T		T	N	T		N		
D			D	I	F	F	U	S	E			I		
N		Y	U	L		E		I	P	S		F		
O	P	E	N	L	Y		T	R	U	M	A	N		
B	K		O	B	E	A	H		L		E			
R	A	R	E	L	Y		O	C	T	A	V	E		
A		U		A		B			E		R			
C	A	T	O		L	E	U		P	R	I	G		

QUICK

		R		R		P		A		S		I		
M	A		D	E	D	O		N		B	U	L	A	
	T		M		O		N		I		G			
H	A	C	I	E	N	D	A		J	U	N	O		
	V		C		S		P			A				
F	A	L	L	S		C	O	L	D	E	S	T		
	U			Y		B		E						
P	A	N	D	O	R	A		B	Y	L	A	W		
	E			A		S		A		N				
I	S	M	S		U	P	P	E	R	L	I	P		
E		R		T		U		T						
C	H	E	E	R	S		O	P	E	N	E	R		
T		H		E		S		B		R				

MENSA PUZZLE

F. Working in columns, subtract the value of the middle letter from the value of the top letter.

QUOTE UNCODE

Every time you win, you're reborn; when you lose, you die a little.

SUDOKU

4	8	1	7	9	3	5	2	6
2	7	9	6	8	5	4	1	3
3	6	5	1	4	2	9	8	7
9	4	3	2	1	8	7	6	5
1	5	8	3	7	6	2	9	4
7	2	6	9	5	4	1	3	8
8	9	2	5	3	7	6	4	1
6	3	7	4	2	1	8	5	9
5	1	4	8	6	9	3	7	2

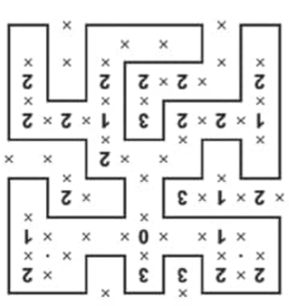
ALPHA TRIANGLE

W, We, Sew, Hews, Shrew, Hawser, Whereas.

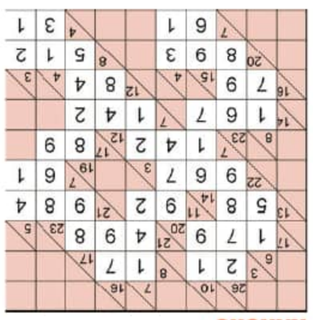
GO FIGURE

Easy
6 + 9 - 3 + 1 = 13
Medium
7 - 4 + 6 + 3 = 12
Hard
8 - 4 + 2 x 4 = 24

LOOP



KAKURO



Volume No 19, Issue No 009 RNI NO:KARENG/2007/21142 Published for the Proprietors, Metropolitan Media Company Ltd by Lokesh K.V. at No. 74/2, Sanjana Plaza, 4th & 5th Floor, Elephant Rock Road, Jayanagar 3rd block, Bengaluru-560 011 and printed by him at Bennett Coleman & Co Ltd., The Times of India Press, No. 9/10/11-A, 4th Main, KIADB Bommasandra Industrial Area, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore–560 099 (Phones : Press : 080-22899999; Editorial : 080-40877666, Fax – 40877545, Registered Office: No. 74/2, Sanjana Plaza, 4th & 5th Floor, Elephant Rock Road, Jayanagar 3rd block, Bengaluru–560 011, Email : mybangaloremirror@timesofindia.com Editor : Ms. Seena Menon–responsible for selection of news under PRB Act. © Reproduction in whole or in part without the written permission of the Publisher is prohibited.

Strong role ahead— Saiyami Kher is all set for her new project, an untitled drama directed by renowned designer-turned-filmmaker Vikram Phadnis, starring alongside Vineet Kumar Singh and Tahir Raj Bhasin

SANDALWOOD SHOTS

Y MAHESWARA REDDY

Title unveiled

The title of upcoming Kannada movie 'Dear Husband' was unveiled by Kichcha Sudeep at Mall of Asia on Sunday, as he extended his best wishes to the cast and crew.

"Many senior artistes encouraged me when I made my debut in the Kannada film industry. Now, I am encouraging newcomers. I want the Kannada film industry to be in the limelight. I am sure 'Dear Husband' will be a unique and interesting movie," Sudeep said.

The movie is to be helmed by Gururaja Kulkarni (Nadagouda). "It is my one-and-a-half-year-old dream. I am very happy to have Kichcha Sudeep as the chief guest for this event. The movie is aimed at youths. Real incidents that took place in London and Bengaluru have inspired me to write the script for this movie. I will reveal more details about the movie in the near future," said director Gururaja Kulkarni (Nadagouda).

The suspense crime thriller features Suraj Gowda, Sharanya Shetty, and Praveen in pivotal roles.

Hit teaser

The team of 'Vikalpa' is elated over the success of the movie's song and teaser. The teaser, which was unveiled on Friday at SRV Theatre, received 891,000 views in just two days, while its song – Nonda Hrudayakke – received over 1.1 million views. The song and teaser of Vikalpa have brought cheer to director-turned-hero Pruthviraj Patil.

"I am very happy with the success of the teaser and song. The movie is scheduled for release shortly. The movie explores the bad and good conditions of humans. I played the lead in the movie. It revolves around an MD of a multinational company whose life unravels under immense professional pressure and personal trauma," said Patil.

The movie features Pruthviraj Patil, Nagashree Hebbar, Harini Srikanth, Sandhya Vinayak, Ganapathi Hegde. The movie is supported by Indira Shivaswamy, while Abhiram Gowda worked behind the camera and Suresh Armugam was in-charge of editing. Samvatsara scored music for this movie.

Kriti Sanon wraps up sister's wedding

Kriti Sanon was seen leaving Udaipur airport after her sister Nupur Sanon's wedding festivities with singer Stebin Ben. She chose a simple, low-key outfit, but paparazzi snapped her quickly, especially once a video and photos went viral online, hinting she was with rumoured boyfriend Kabir Bahia.

The timing fuels extra excitement around Kriti Sanon's airport exit. She had travelled to Udaipur for her sister's private wedding celebrations, attended only by family and close friends. In recent days, online posts shared glimpses of the event, from celebratory outfits to spontaneous moments, leading fans to follow attendees and their travel companions.

Kriti continues to avoid personal life comments, staying focused on her professional projects. However, her public outings consistently revive boyfriend rumours, and this latest Udaipur moment introduces yet another twist to the ongoing rumours. —ETimes

CREATIVE INSTINCT OVER CLOUT

For Malavika Mohanan, gut feeling and creativity matter most in choosing films

Actress Malavika Mohanan has been gaining fame for her recent releases in the South Indian cinema, including Mohanlal starrer 'Hridayapoorvam', 'Master' with Vijay, and her latest outing in 'The Raja Saab' opposite Prabhas. Additionally, she had also made her Hindi film debut in 'Beyond the Clouds', the actress shared why her Hindi filmography has been limited since her debut in 2017 and shared the kind of filmmakers and roles she truly wants to explore.

Selective choices after 'Beyond the Clouds'

During a conversation with India Today, Malavika Mohanan addressed the question regarding more outings in Hindi since 'Beyond the Clouds', to which she replied that her career choices have been driven by her creative instinct rather than the size or status of the industry. She said, "After 'Beyond the Clouds', I did receive a lot of Hindi film offers, but I've been very choosy. Even if there's a big Hindi film, if I connect more with an interesting script from another industry, I'll go with what feels right to me."

"I don't see one industry as superior to another. I make my choices intuitively, and while I'd love to do more Hindi films, it has to excite me creatively," she added.

In 2024, Malavika Mohanan did a Hindi action thriller, 'Yudhra' opposite Siddhant Chaturvedi and Raghav Juyal in key roles. Malavika Mohanan was recently seen in the Prabhas starrer horror comedy film, 'The Raja Saab' where she plays one of the female leads in the movie. The film also stars Nidhhi Agerwal, Riddhi Kumar, Sanjay Dutt, Boman Irani, Zarina Wahab in key roles. On the upcoming work front, she is also set to be seen in the Tamil film 'Sardar 2' starring alongside Karthi. —ETimes

Will Smith's Bollywood plans

Will Smith recently attended an event in Dubai, where he expressed his desire to work in a Bollywood movie. The Hollywood star also revealed that he had discussions with Salman Khan and Amitabh Bachchan about the same; however, nothing worked out.

At an event in Dubai, Will Smith interacted with Gulf News. He said, "I was talking to Salman (Khan). We had things we were talking about. I was trying to get into something with Big B, you know. He told me I could be Big W, so we were cool—we were sharing the title. There were a couple of things over the years... nothing panned out." The Hollywood icon further shared that he wants Shah Rukh Khan to cast him in a movie. He said, "I want Shah Rukh to put me in something. Shah Rukh, what's up?" —ETimes

Cherishing the mom life

As her daughter Vamika turned five, actress Anushka Sharma reflected on her journey into motherhood, sharing that she cherishes every part of it and wouldn't trade her version of motherhood for anything in the world.

Anushka, who welcomed her first child Vamika in 2021 with star cricketer Virat Kohli, took to her social media stories resharing a post about how motherhood changes a person. The post read, "Let motherhood change you - and take responsibility for this new version of you. The idea that we can keep our old lives, just slightly adjusted, and simply take our babies along... is only partly true. No one mentioned the cost. With tired eyes and a full heart, our needs are not disappearing - they're being rearranged."

As she re-shared the post on her stories section, Anushka added the caption: "And I wouldn't go back to any version of me that didn't know you, my child. Jan 11, 2021 (red heart emoji)." —ETimes